

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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**Fr Maurice Gordon, Fr Mark Swires,
Fr Joseph Anthiamkulam (Syro-Malabar Chaplain)
Fr David Waller (Ordinariate Priest) (020 8554 3763)
Rev. Joseph Baffour-Awuah (Permanent Deacon)
Sr. Anne Marie (Pastoral Care)**

Our Lady & St George's Primary School:
Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552
Holy Family Catholic College: 8520 0482/8520 3587

27th July 2014

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Today's Gospel concludes a three-week series of parables in which our Lord describes the Kingdom of Heaven, using images to help us understand and desire it. A central theme in today's parables is the discovery of treasure, of finding something of huge value and taking the necessary action to get it. The man who found treasure in a field and the pearl merchant both recognise the value of what they have discovered, and sell all they have to get it. Jesus is saying the Kingdom of God is like this – it is well worth staking everything we have for it.

When Jesus speaks of the Kingdom, He knows what He is talking about. His comparisons reflect reality and are not just speculation or subjective opinion. It is the real thing. We often go after lesser treasures that do not make us happy or satisfy deeply, but Jesus knows what His Father has prepared for us, and our earthly treasures are straw in comparison.

In the First Reading, Solomon, King David's son, recognises that earthly treasures are passing. As he begins his reign, he lacks confidence in his ability to rule. The Lord asks him in a dream what he wants. At his young age, he could have asked for long life, the destruction of his enemies, riches or other pleasures, but instead asks for wisdom to help him govern. By seeking this real treasure, Solomon is rewarded – God promises to give him a heart 'wise and shrewd' as none before him.

We too should ask God for the wisdom to live in right relationship with Him. If we surrender to God's will, like Solomon, then everything else will fit into place, according to God's plan. Sometimes in life we experience difficulties, sufferings, fatigue or despair. To bear these things is what it means to carry our cross, which is never easy – but these things can lead us to the treasure, which is Christ Himself. Once the man has bought the field, he must dig it up to get to the treasure. So in the midst of our adversities, prayer and the sacraments are our way of digging up the field, to get to the treasure which is Christ. We knock and seek for the strength we need, following the Lord's words, 'ask and you shall receive.' By His help, our sufferings and sacrifices work to enrich us. That is why St Paul can say in the Second Reading that 'by turning everything to their good, God cooperates with those who love Him.' No matter how bad a situation may be, God can use it and turn it around, bringing good from it, the supreme example being our Lord's death, where the evil of the crucifixion was the means of salvation.

In His third small parable today, Jesus compares the Kingdom to a big fishing net, which pulls in a haul of all kinds – good fish, but also lots of rubbish. Eventually the fisherman must separate the good fish from the trash. This is a striking image of judgement, which reminds us that we cannot become complacent. It is very easy to succumb to worldly values and crave human respect and approval, against the values of the Gospel. Even Solomon later lost the plot and became morally corrupt. This is a warning to us that we should refrain from prematurely judging others, conscious that we ourselves can lose the saving gift of wisdom if we foolishly let down our guard and give way to sin.

Thus, when we seek the treasure and try to live the Gospel, we experience joy, but on the other hand we have to be vigilant against the wiles of the enemy, who seeks to rob us of this treasure and destroy us.

Fr Maurice

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS: Bishop Alan has made the following appointments, which will take effect from 1st September 2014:

Father Paul Keane is appointed as Vice-Rector of Oscott for a period of five years. During College vacations Fr Paul will have a base in Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead.

Father Mark Swires is appointed as Parish Priest of Brightlingsea-with-Wivenhoe and Chaplain to the University of Essex.

Father Patrick Daly is appointed as curate to Our Lady and St George, Walthamstow.

Father Richard Rowe is appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Great Bardfield and Thaxted.

Father Brian McGilloway is appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St Francis of Assisi, Halstead.

We thank Fr Mark for his ministry in our parish over the last five years, in particular for his work with our schools and the hospital. We warmly congratulate him on his appointment as Parish Priest and university chaplain. His last weekend at Our Lady & St George's will be 23rd/24th August.

We look forward to welcoming Fr Patrick Daly, who was ordained recently. Before training for the Priesthood, Fr Patrick was a branch manager at Halifax, serving in a number of towns in the Diocese. He studied at the Beda College in Rome. Fr Patrick brings many gifts with him and we pray that his time with us will be fruitful.

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 28th July at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

OUR LADY & ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL: We congratulate our primary school on an excellent set of SATS results for both Y2 and Y6 pupils. Performance at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 has increased significantly this year, which is testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and pupils. The Y6 results are the best achieved since the school amalgamated, and Y2 show good signs of improvement over previous years, which bodes well for the future. We are very proud of our school, and intend to continue building on this success.

RED MISSION BOX: If you have a red mission box at home, please bring it to the Church. We thank Mary Lindo for helping to coordinate this scheme; if you have any queries, please contact her on 0208 539 1344.

CONFIRMATION 2014: There are still some young people who have not yet collected their Confirmation certificates. Please come to the Presbytery to collect yours if you haven't yet done so.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2014-15: Thank you to the parents who have already made appointments to see Fr Mark following the recent First Communion Meeting. (The First Communion programme is open to children who are in school year 4 or older and who

live in Our Lady and St George parish or whose families regularly attend Mass here). If you would like your child to make their First Communion please speak to Fr Mark during August.

FIRST COMMUNION 2013-14 PHOTOGRAPHS: The CDs with photographs of each First Holy Communion child have now been produced. The majority have been delivered but there are some for which a deposit was paid, but contact details were not supplied on the day. There are also CDs of the children that only had a picture taken with Fr Mark / Fr Maurice. All children were photographed. If you are yet to collect these, please contact Vicky (07961 405 197) or Jo (07894 692 403) so we can arrange to get them to you.

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THE FIRST COMMUNION MASS OF THANKSGIVING: There is a disc with photographs taken after the FHC Thanksgiving Mass. Please speak to Fr Mark after one of the Sunday Masses during August if your child was in these photographs. The disc is free of charge.

ORGAN AND KEYBOARD LESSONS: Instrumental tuition offered in both organ and keyboard by a qualified organist. Organ lessons can take place at the church, and piano lessons either at the church or at home if more convenient. Lessons are offered for pupils of all ages and different stages of playing experience and musical knowledge. For further information please contact Ladislav Ondercin on 07472 861 186 (please leave a message after 5pm) or email ladislav.ondercin@gmail.com.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY – ST ANTHONY OF PADUA (17th – 23rd SEPT 2014): A meeting is being held in the Parish Hall on Sunday 27th July at 3pm, for all those travelling on this pilgrimage. Please note you can book your coach travel on this day.

YOUTH 2000 SUMMER FESTIVAL: THE JOURNEY: *The Journey* is a 5-day prayer festival for 16-35 year olds, jam-packed with great speakers, worship, social times, workshops and loads more. 21st-25th August 2014 at the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk. Join 1000 young adults on a life-changing journey. There will be a coach going from East London. For more information, visit www.youth2000.org, email info@youth2000.org or phone 0207 221 2124.

GIFT AID: Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows the parish to reclaim tax on all donations made by UK taxpayers, at no cost to you. If you are not currently enrolled in the Gift Aid scheme, please pick up a Gift Aid form from the back of the Church or for further information, please contact Hana on 07939 485957. This provides much-needed additional income for the upkeep of the Church and support of our schools.

RIP:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Marie Davis, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 31st July at 1.30pm.

May she rest in peace.

ROTAS – JULY

Counting	6/7 C	13/7 E	20/7 B	27/7 C
Hospital	6/7 A	13/7 B	20/7 D	27/7 A
Christian Kitchen	5/7 Nor	12/7 G	19/7 A	26/7 B

The offertory collection for 20th July was £1502.83
Thank you very much for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

6.00pm	Rebecca Storr (RIP)
Sun 27 th July	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Day for Life)
8.30am	Bridie Cullen (RIP)
10.00am	Suta Kovci (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 28 th July	Feria
7.00am	Natalie Rosario (Ints)
9.15am	Lazaro De Souza (RIP)
Tue 29 th July	St Martha
7.00am	Noel Rahinda & Ethan Ribeiro (Ints)
9.15am	Kristina Klimasoskita (Ints)
Wed 30 th July	Feria
7.00am	Rosaleen Sheridan (Ints)
9.15am	Agnelo Rodrigues (Ints)
Thu 31 st July	St Ignatius Loyola
7.00am	Sr Jacinta De Souza (RIP)
9:15am	Elizabeth Stafford (RIP)
Fri 1 st Aug	St Alphonsus Liguori
7.00am	Oly Tully (RIP)
9.15am	J Coeur-de-Lion
Sat 2 nd Aug	Feria
10.00am	K Kalpee (Ints)
6.00pm	HPD Colaco (RIP)
Sun 3 rd Aug	Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
8.30am	Dejanire Talma (RIP)
10.00am	Deceased family members of P McKenna
12.00pm	Peace in the Holy Land
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>

We pray for those in our parish community who are ill:

Christoper Browne, Rose Dennehy, Carol Hogermeer, Brian Keane, Ignatius Keane, Tony McCarthy, Rose O'Neill, Andrea Roberts, Promise Shinondo, Victoria Wyndham, Christine Conway, Nora Meades, Veronica Nolan, Mr & Mrs Charles, Maureen Bee, Denis Collins, Esperanza Buenaventura, Joyce Ross, Christine Raymond, Jacky Boyrow, Thelma Lewis, Tasmin Sparks, Eileen Karim, Sandra Gibson, Angelina Hoareau, Archie Garrod, Gilda Baptiste, Margaret Messenger, Martin Keane, Muriel Chetty, Masangela Tardioli, Alix Charlery, Natalie Rosario, Ronald Rolle. Bridie Lacon, Peter Ikuptati. Mercy Fernando, Veronica Godsave, Mary and Anthony O'Boyle, Oliver Gaynor, Marjorie Singh, Gunanesan Singarajah, Joan Beirne, Bill Walsh, Margaret Perry, Bridget Lyons, Kristina Klimasauskaite, Philomena Spranklen, Jeffrey Mitchell, Michelle Boyle, Carla Cornelius, Cecelia Gibbs, Arthur Gibbs, Ural Gibbs, Gilbert Gibbs, Archie, George & Issac, Boyce Chandasingh.

Morning Prayer:

Rosary:

Adoration & Exposition:

Reconciliation (Confessions):

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45am

Weekdays after morning Mass

Mon – Fri: 7.30am-8.30am and at the following times:

Mon: 10.00am – 7.00pm Weds: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Fri: 9.45am – 10.45am, Sat: 10.30am-11.30am

Sat. 10.30am – 11.00am. 5.00pm – 5.30pm (Or on request)